

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichi AKIYAMA

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: December 4, 2003

Docket No.: 117623

For: SUPPORTING MECHANISM FOR SOLID TYPE ROD INTEGRATOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of the non-English language reference 1 is discussed in the present specification.
- ☒ 3. An English-language Abstract of the non-English language reference 3 is attached hereto.

- ☒ 4. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publications have been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([<http://www.jpo.go.jp>]), and are attached, but have not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 1-3.

Respectfully submitted,



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| Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83) | | US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 117623 | | APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | APPLICANT Koichi AKIYAMA | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE December 4, 2003 | | | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|------|------|-------|--------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB CLASS |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------|---------|-------|--------------|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB CLASS |
| | 1 | JP A 2001-228541 w/trans. | 08/24/2001 | Japan | | |
| | 2 | JP A 8-227034 w/trans. | 09/03/1996 | Japan | | |
| | 3 | JP A 2002-350779 w/trans. + abstr. | 12/04/2002 | Japan | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) | | | | | | |
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| Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

Date: December 4, 2003